

Proposals to bring together community, mental health and learning disability services

January 2023

Solent NHS Trust continues to work with Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust, Isle of Wight NHS Trust, and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to bring together community and mental health services across Hampshire and Isle of Wight. Together, we are working towards the development of a strategic case. This will describe in more detail the recommendation to create a new organisation, for community and mental health services across Hampshire and Isle of Wight, alongside other potential options that the original review of community and mental health services considered. It will outline any key risks and potential benefits and help our organisations make the decision as to whether to invest in developing a full business case which will include detailed plans for a new organisation.

The strategic case will be presented to each provider organisation's Board with a preferred option on how best we can work together. With support from each Board, the case will then be submitted to NHS England for review. Subject to that review, we will then proceed to develop a full business case setting out detailed plans for the new organisation.

All partners are committed to ensuring patients are front and centre of our approach, which will be clinically-led, transparent, and inclusive. The engagement we undertake with local communities, staff and stakeholders will be two-way, to ensure that everyone's voices are heard and the changes put in place are widely endorsed.

Our programme of community engagement is based on a well-established understanding of the communities we serve. An engagement steering group has been established to oversee and support the programme which includes Healthwatch, representatives of currently unrepresented communities and partner community engagement leads. This group has met twice (in November and January). Our engagement will continue through the preparation of the strategic case, full business case, to day one of the new organisation and beyond. We will seek to understand more about what a great community and mental health organisation looks like for both current users of our services, their families and carers and prospective users for the future.

Following the success of the first virtual stakeholder engagement event on 22 November, which was attended by around 70 stakeholders from the local community and partner organisations, we will be holding a second event, this time in person, with partners and staff from all organisations involved in February.